

Abstract**Catalyst Support**

A catalyst support consisting mainly of synthetic silica, with 0.5 - 10 parts by weight of one or more oxides or phosphates of the elements of group IIA, IIIB, IVB, VB, 5 VIB, VIIB, VIII, IB, IIB, IIIA, IVA and the lanthanides characterised in that the support preparation method comprises mixing particulate synthetic silica with particulate oxides or phosphates of the elements of Groups 10 IIA, IIIB, IVB, VB, VIB, VIIB, VIII, IB, IIB, IIIA, IVA and the lanthanides, or with precursors thereof, a forming step and calcination.

The catalyst support is used together with phosphoric acid in the production of alcohols from olefins by hydration.